

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-53. (Cancelled).

54. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide encoding an anthocyanin acyltransferase, which polynucleotide encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 32 to 37.

55. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 54.

56. (Previously Presented) A host cell transformed with the vector according to claim 55.

57. (Previously Presented) The host cell according to claim 56, wherein said host cell is a microbial cell or an animal cell.

58. (Previously Presented) The host cell according to claim 56, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.

59. (Previously Presented) A method for acylating a pigment in a plant, comprising introducing the polynucleotide according to claim 54 into a plant, whereby said polynucleotide expresses a protein, and said protein acylates the pigment in the plant, which alters the color of flowers of said plant.

60. (Previously Presented) A method for stabilizing a pigment in a plant, comprising introducing the polynucleotide according to claim 54 into a plant, whereby said polynucleotide expresses a protein, and said protein acylates the pigment in the plant, which stabilizes the pigment of said plant

61. (Previously Presented) A method for altering the color of flowers, comprising introducing the polynucleotide according to claim 54 into a plant, whereby said polynucleotide expresses a protein, and said protein acylates the pigment in the plant, which alters the color of flowers of said plant.

62. (Previously Presented) A plant, its progeny, or tissue of said plant or said progeny, wherein its color has been controlled by introducing thereinto the polynucleotide according to claim 54.

Claim 63. (Cancelled).

64. (Previously Presented) A cut flower of the plant, its progeny, or tissue of said plant or said progeny according to claim 62, wherein the color of said flower has been controlled by introducing said polynucleotide into said plant.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein the pigment is anthocyanin.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 61, wherein the pigment is anthocyanin.

67. (Previously Presented) The host cell according to claim 56, wherein said host cell is a plant cell in a plant.

Claim 68. Cancelled.